

Removal of Ramps from Historical Places

† 665. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that facility of 'Ramps' for disabled persons does not exist at historical places in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government will make such an arrangement at the historical places;

(c) whether 'Ramps' were created at some historical places in Delhi which have been removed now; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Make shift ramps of wood and permanent ramp made on stone have been provided in some centrally protected monuments and this facility will be extended to other monuments subject to feasibility.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Development of Historical and Cultural Places

† 666. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there are still some such places in various parts of the country which are important from the historical point of view, but there has been too much negligence on behalf of Government to develop the same from the tourism point of view.

(b) if so, whether Government will take any effective and concrete steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF . TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development of places including places of historical interest, which are important from the point of view of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories.

(b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories every year for tourism related projects at various places of tourist interest identified' in consultation with them.

(c) 21 travel circuits, 12 destinations and 5 Special Tourism Areas covering important places including the places of historical importance have been identified for development in consultation with respective State Governments/Union Territories. During the first three years of Ninth Plan i.e. 1997-2000, the Department of Tourism has sanctioned 1018 projects.

(d) Does not arise.

Restoration of monuments in Gujarat

667. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent earthquake that devastated Gujarat has also damaged a large number of ancient monuments of archaeological importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken proposed to be taken for repairs and restoration of the monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Fifty monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India in Gujarat have suffered damages of varying magnitude in the recent earthquake of 26th January, 2001. The rough assessment of the damage is over Rs. 2 crores.

(c) The monuments affected by the earthquake have been inspected by senior officers of the Archaeological Survey of India. Measures have been initiated to stabilise the structurally sensitive